RFRI conducts Skill Development Training on Cultivation of Wild Edible Mushrooms

A four day's **'Skill Development Training on Cultivation of Wild Edible Mushrooms'** was held from 20th to 23rd June, 2017 at Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat. The training programme was sponsored by Meghalaya Basin development authority (MBDA). A group of 25 entrepreneurs of Meghalaya participated in this programme. The primary objective of the training programme was to encourage the participants for self-employment and to improve their economy through the cultivation of wild edible mushroom species. The training programme covered many important aspects of mushroom cultivation including selection of cultivable species, differentiation between edible and non-edible mushrooms, pure culture preparation, substrate preparation, raising mother spawn, raising commercial spawn, commercial cultivation, precautions to be taken during cultivation and harvesting technology, through lectures and hands on training. The hands on practicals were conducted, where all the methods starting from pure culture preparation to commercial cultivation were covered. The methods of collection of edible mushroom from natural forests were demonstrated. The participants were introduced to different scientific equipments/ machineries, viz, autoclave, laminar air flow system, incubator etc, which are required in the commercial cultivation of mushrooms. On the final day, post-harvest management, marketing of mushrooms and value-added products of edible mushrooms were discussed.

On the last of the Training, certificates were distributed to the participants. Fruitful interaction took place between the participants and the trainers and the enthusiastic spirit of the participants came a long way in making the training a real success. The participants gained the confidence and expertise of domestication of wild varieties as a commercial venture under controlled conditions, which will definitely boost women empowerment in a long run.